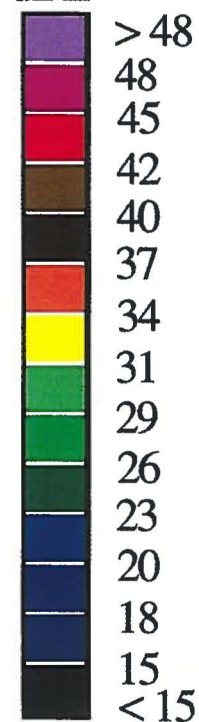


HURRICANE ANDREW

NWS MIAMI RADAR
August 24, 1992
08:35 UTC 04:35 EDT

dBZ



Hurricane
Research
Division

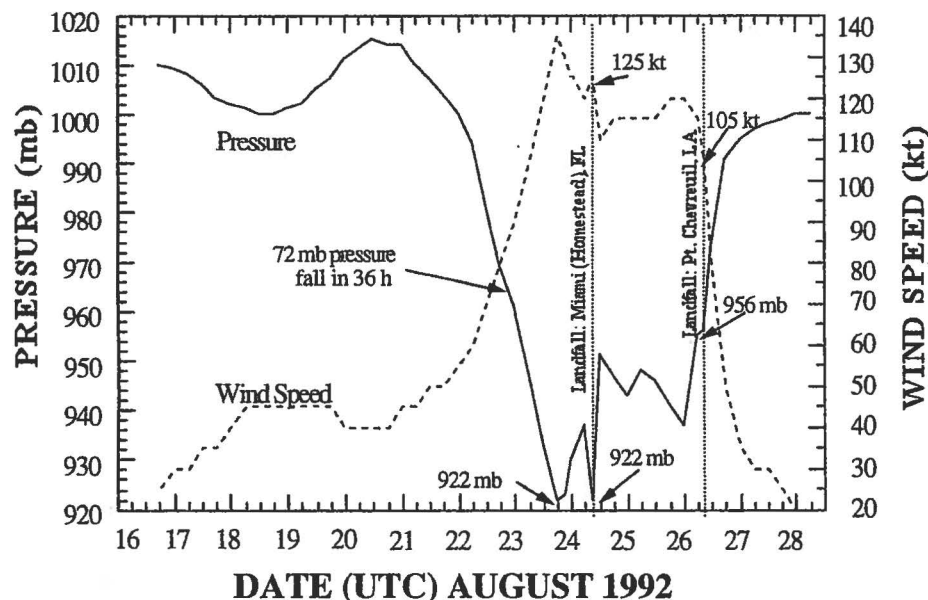


NOAA/AOML
Miami, FL

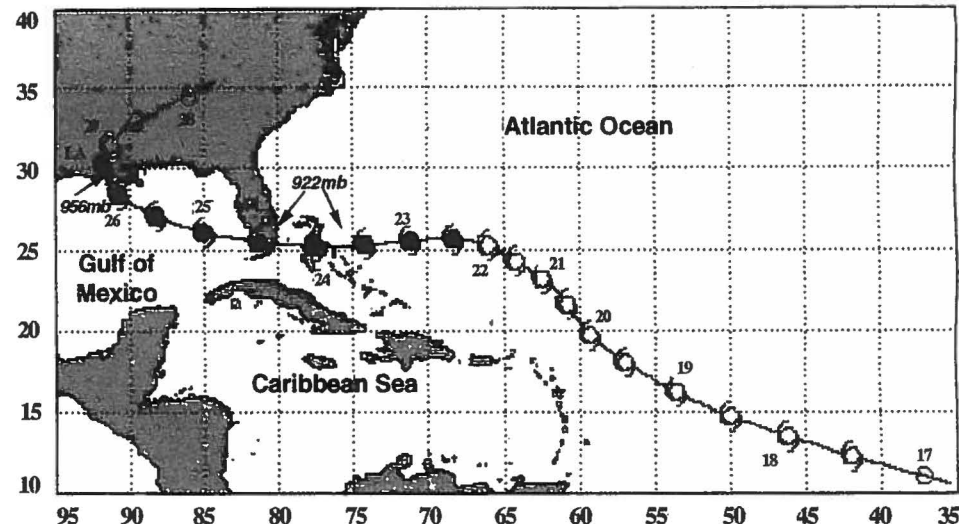
Domain: 100 x 100 km

ANDREW became a hurricane on 22 August 1992 and within 36 hours intensified to Category 4 strength before crossing over the northwestern Bahamas. On the morning of the 24th, Hurricane Andrew struck southeast Florida with maximum sustained surface winds estimated at 145 mph, gusts exceeding 175 mph, and a minimum central pressure of 922 mb (27.23"), which is the third lowest central pressure this century for a hurricane making landfall in the United States. Andrew went on to strike the central Louisiana coast on 26 August as a Category 3 storm. Hurricane Andrew was directly responsible for 26 deaths, indirectly for at least 36 more, and caused \$20-25 billion in damages, making it the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

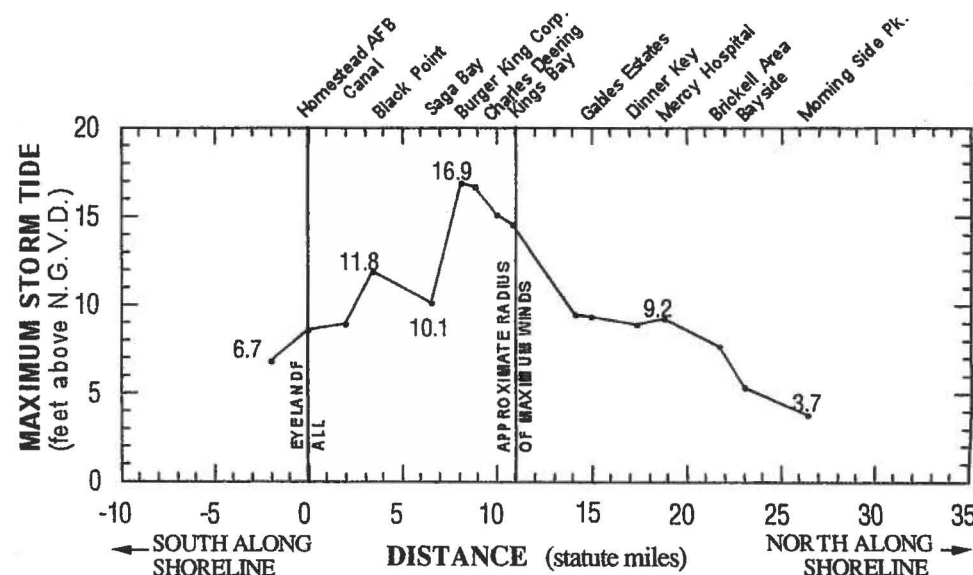
Comments on Hurricane Andrew color radar image (opposite side): The picture is from the last full sweep of the National Weather Service's Miami WSR-57 radar (collocated with the National Hurricane Center [NHC]) before the radar was destroyed by the storm. The digitized radar imagery shows the eye centered over Elliott Key just before landfall at Homestead Air Force Base (HAFB). As Andrew traveled due west, the heaviest damage occurred in those areas affected by the eyewall (red and pink doughnut-shaped region). The weather radar measures the power from the portion of the radar beam scattered back by raindrops and ice particles, expressed here as units of decibels of reflectivity (dBZ). The colors associated with higher dBZ (i.e., red) correspond to areas with larger amounts of rain, which typically are also regions of stronger winds. Areas with high dBZ in the center of the eye are because of ground clutter from islands. (Ground clutter is the reflection of the radar beam by terrain, large structures, and rough water.) Ground clutter in the vicinity of NHC has been removed and is shown in gray. Radar data recorded by Peter Dodge and Paul A. Leighton of the Hurricane Research Division/AOML/NOAA.



Best track minimum central pressures and maximum sustained wind speeds for Hurricane Andrew.



Best track positions for Hurricane Andrew (August 16-28, 1992). Positions at 00 and 12 UTC are shown. Dates are at the 00 UTC Locations. Tropical depression, tropical storm and hurricane strengths are represented by open circles and open and filled hurricane symbols, respectively. Locations of lowest minimum central pressure are shown. Data for this and other black and white figures are from National Hurricane Center's preliminary report.



Preliminary storm tide heights (sum of storm surge and astronomical tide) along western shore of Biscayne Bay associated with Hurricane Andrew, 24 August 1992. (Data provided by the U.S. Geological Survey under a mission assignment from FEMA.) Heights in feet above NGVD - National Geodetic Vertical Datum - zero elevation - i.e., mean sea level of 1929.